

42. The method of claim 41, wherein etching the second metal layer with the first etch chemistry includes stopping the etching just prior to the plug being exposed, and wherein overetching the second metal layer includes etching a remaining portion of the second metal layer at least until the plug is exposed.

43. The method of claim 42, wherein overetching the second metal layer includes etching at least a portion of the plug and the dielectric.

92 44. The method of claim 43, wherein the etched portions of the plug and the dielectric form an exposed surface that is about planar.

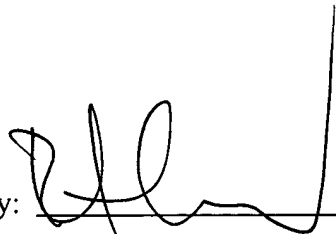
45. The method of claim 44, wherein a of the plug extends beyond the exposed surface.

46. The method of claim 38, wherein etching the second metal layer includes exposing the dielectric layer.

Remarks

A favorable reply is earnestly requested.

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